

to overcome the objections for lack of antecedent basis or any other objections or rejections set forth in the Office Action.

It is submitted that the changes described in greater detail below overcome the objections made in the Office Action and therefore claims 1 through 12 and 27 are in condition for allowance.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that claim 26 of the subject application would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 26 has been put into independent form with the requirements of claim 16 as filed, and therefore it is submitted that claim 26 is also in condition for allowance.

Paragraphs 4 through 7 of the Office Action

The drawings have been objected to.

With regard to paragraph 5, an amendment to the specification has been requested above to indicate that the directing station 32 indicated in the drawings (specifically Figure 3) may be a part of the central station 10 or part of the remote station 14 (as shown in Figure 1) as is described in greater detail on page 15, line 17 et seq. of the specification of the subject application. It is submitted that the requested clarification to the language of the specification further clarifies the relationship between the directing stations and the central and remote stations.

With regard to paragraph 6, the above amendment to the specification of the subject application is submitted to adopt the suggestion of the Examiner.

With regard to paragraph 7, it is requested that the requirement to conform the drawings to the requirements of the Official Draftsperson in PTO948 be held in abeyance until formal

drawings are submitted after a Notice of Allowance is issued for the subject application.

In light of the above, it is therefore submitted that the objections to the drawings as originally filed has been overcome (except for those of the Official Draftsperson), and withdrawal of the substantive objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action

The declaration has been objected to.

Submitted herewith is a new declaration identifying the application number and filing date of the subject application and signed by each of the applicants.

Also submitted herewith is a small entity declaration for the subject application.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 9 of the Office Action

The specification has been objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

The specification has been amended in a manner believed to provide further antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, particularly with regard to the element identified in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 10 of the Office Action

Claim 1 has been objected to for the informalities noted in the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to clarify the informalities in the language identified in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 11 through 13 of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite.

The above amendments to the claims are believed to clarify the requirements of the rejected claims, especially the particular points identified in the Office Action. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the antecedent basis, and the dependency of claim 17 has been changed from claim 16 to claim 22 to provide proper antecedents.

Withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 1 and 17 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 14 through 16 of the Office Action

Claims 13 through 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunte et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,873,070 in view of Helms, U.S. Patent No. 5,561,710.

Claim 13, particularly as amended, requires "a second transceiver means for wirelessly transmitting signals to and receiving signals from the first transceiver means of a base station". Claim 13 also requires "a translating means for converting digital data signals received from the scanning means interfaced to said third interface means, said translating means being adapted to convert said digital data signals into DTMF-encoded transfer signals and transmitting said transfer signals to the first interface means for being wirelessly transferred to the first transceiver means of the base station by said second transceiver means, said translating means converting DTMF-encoded transfer signals received by wireless transmission from said first transceiver means to said second transceiver means and passed to said first interface means, said translating means being adapted to convert said DTMF-encoded transfer signals into digital data signals for transfer to said

scanning means". The conversion of signals to DTMF-encoded signals for wireless transmission to the base station is considered highly significant, because this conversion permits the wireless transmission of voice in the same wireless transmission through the in-building wireless telephone system without having to digitize both data and voice for transmission.

The Bunte et al. reference teaches a communication system that employs wireless transmissions, but lacks any suggestion of converting digital data signals to DTMF-encoded signals for the wireless transmission of the data. The Bunte device converts information to digitized data and transmits that digitized data to the base station.

The Helms reference teaches a device that generates DTMF signals specifically for interfacing with a conventional telephone receiver such that the DTMF signals that are specifically taught for transmission through the landline wires of the "public switched telephone network/public data network" (see, e.g., Helms at col. 5, lines 30-31). Because of this emphasis on conventional telephone system use, it is submitted that one would not be lead to using wireless transmissions by the Helms teaching.

It is submitted that, given the teachings and the purposes of the Bunte and Helms references, one would not be lead to converting digital signals to DTMF encoding and wirelessly transmitting those signals.

Further, it is submitted that the prior art references fail to teach the requirements of claims 14 and 15 in the particular subject matter area of the claimed invention. Though such requirements may be known in other subject matter areas, it is submitted that it is significant that the prior art from the relevant technological area lacks the claimed features.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 13 through 15 is

therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 17 of the Office Action

Claims 16 through 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,918,213 in view of Bunte et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,873,070.

Claim 16, particularly as amended, requires "fulfilling the merchandise order from the product storage space, including the steps of: compiling a listing of the product items of one or more merchandise orders to be assembled in the product storage space, identifying the product locations in the product storage space of each of the product items on said listing of product items".

Neither of the cited references teaches the above-noted requirement of claim 16. It is therefore submitted that the prior art would never lead one to the requirements of claim 16, particularly as amended.

With particular respect to claim 18, it is submitted that confirmation of a customer's requested quantity of items in an order does not anticipate applicants' claim 18 requirement of establishing a predetermined limit quantity for product items, and requesting confirmation from the customer if the requested quantity exceeds that predetermined limit quantity. (See, e.g., applicants' specification at the bottom of page 24.)

With particular respect to claim 21, it is submitted that applicants' requirement of scanning a code associated with a product item picked from the product storage space is not obvious in view of the prior art, especially in combination with the requirements of claim 16, particularly as amended.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 16 through 25 is therefore respectfully requested.

New claims

New claims 28 through 31 have been added to the application. Claims 28 through 30 depend from claim 16, and are submitted to be allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 16. Claims 28 through 30 also incorporate features of claim 26, which was indicated as having allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

New claim 31 is an independent claim that recites a number of requirements of claim 1, which was indicated as being allowable in the Office Action, and claim 31 is deemed to be allowable for similar reasons.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

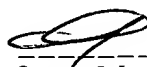


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